'I owe my life to cancer trial'

By GEMMA GARDNER

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A BUNTINGFORD man suffering from lung cancer is hoping to raise money for the charity that he believes saved his life.

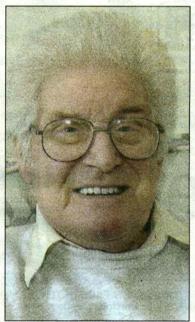
Three years ago Don Moulden, of White Hart Close, was told he had terminal lung cancer.

Don told the *Mercury*: "I was given 12 months to live or die, and I was sent home to tidy up my affairs and say my extended farewells to family and friends. It was like being told to make a will and book a holiday."

But Don, 76, is still very much alive after being picked at random for a cancer trial at London's University College Hospital (UCH).

He said: "My wife, Jean, and the whole family, are delighted that I am now fitter than I have been for decades – I've got my quality of life back!"

At UCH Don was given photodynamic therapy (PDT), in which a light-sensitive drug is injected and collects around the tumour. The drug is activated when subjected to a laser light and can almost instantly destroy the tumour by temporarily stopping



LUCKY TO BE ALIVE: Don Moulden Photo: ZYSQRZ3T.04

its oxygen supply.

Don's treatment was funded by the charity, Killing Cancer, which was set up by David Longman after conventional treatments failed to combat a tumour on his daughter Louise's arm.

David said: "As her dad, I had to do something. PDT could, potentially, successfully treat many of the most devastating cancers and medical conditions, but doesn't because of a dire lack of funding."

Don explained that there was some funding from Cancer Research UK, but it was a drop in the ocean compared with what the charity really needed.

Don is now working with the charity, supporting the work of his doctor, Dr Jeremy George, to enable more people to receive the treatment.

Don said: "If you were diagnosed with cancer, would you just lay back and accept it? We can all do something, no matter how large or small.

"I am so very lucky to be alive, and sometimes I think it's a miracle."

Don said that £4,000 would pay for the drug for someone else and £20,000 would pay for a part-time research nurse, while the total needed to complete the research trial is around £3m.

• For more information visit www.killingcancer.co.uk.